

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 17, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 3-6, 10-15 and 18-19 remain in this application, where claims 10-11 and 18 are independent.

In the Final Office Action, claims 3-6, 10-12, 15 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over JP 09-330175 (Hatakeyama) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,042,442 (Kanvesky). Further, claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Hatakeyama in view of Kanvesky and an article entitled "Soft Adaptive Follow-Finger Keyboard for Touch-Screen Pads" (Gantenbein). It is respectfully submitted that claims 3-6, 10-15 and 18-19 are patentable over Hatakeyama, Kanvesky and Gantenbein for at least the following reasons.

As correctly noted on page 3 of the Final Office Action, Hatakeyama does not disclose or suggest "a stroke recognition means which recognizes a key stroke by analyzing a relative position of a zone touched by a finger causing a higher force on the touch-sensitive member relative to positions of zones concurrently touched by other fingers with a lower force, such that the key stroke is determined by the relative position of the higher force touched zone relative to the lower force concurrently touched," as recited in independent claim 10, and similarly recited in independent claims 11 and 18. Column 6, lines 17-44 of Kanvesky are cited in an attempt to remedy the deficiencies in Hatakeyama.

Kanvesky is directed to a virtual invisible keyboard where a recognition system of gestures maps sequences of gestures to keys strings. Column 6, lines 17-44 merely discloses that a camera 700 detects pictures of the user hands and a keyboard mapper module 702 scales the keyboard to fit it to hand positions 705.

It is respectfully submitted that the disclosure in column 6, lines 17-44 of Kanvesky has nothing to do with anything touched by any force, let alone concurrently touching different zones by

different fingers with different forces.

It is respectfully submitted that the Hatakeyama and Kanvesky, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, which, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

a stroke recognition means which recognizes a key stroke by analyzing a relative position of a zone touched by a finger causing a higher force on the touch-sensitive member relative to positions of zones concurrently touched by other fingers with a lower force, such that the key stroke is determined by the relative position of the higher force touched zone relative to the lower force concurrently touched.

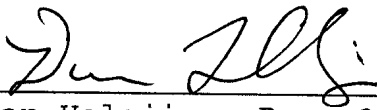
Recognizing a key stroke by analyzing a relative position of a zone touched by a finger causing a higher force on the touch-sensitive member relative to positions of zones concurrently touched by other fingers with a lower force, is features are nowhere disclosed or suggested in Hatakeyama, Kanvesky, and combination thereof. Rather, Kanvesky merely discloses scales the keyboard to fit it to hand positions based on analyzing pictures of the hand detected by a camera 700. Gantenbein is cited to allegedly show other features and does not remedy the deficiencies in Hatakeyama and Kanvesky.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 10-11 and 18 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 3-6, 12-15 and 19 should also be allowed at least based on its dependence from independent claims 10-11 and 18.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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